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Date: 8/7/80.

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Dates of Interrogation: 2nd to
12th December 1944.

1. H. H. REPORT NO. 4

- * Name: MEZ, Hans Hermann Alois (This, his real name, appearing in his passport issued legally by German Security Service, was used as pretended alias.)
Mez interrogated 8/7/80
- * Alias: Van der MEZ, Jan (Pretended real name with Poles and, for first few weeks, with British, while still posing as Dutchman working for Secret Polish societies.)
- * Alias: MEZDEKI, Jan (Alias, used only on Polish passport, for journey from Turkey to Syria. Passport issued by Polish Consulate in Istanbul, when Poles believed him to be a Dutchman, van der MEZ.)
- * Alias: SYMBIT (Code names used in Secret Police
- * Alias: JANKE (Sociation where all members are only mentioned by a Christian name, usually an alias.)

Nationality: GERMAN.

Background for Interrogation.

- A German, born and brought up in HAMBURG, for a few years in HOLLAND.
- In KPD (Kommunistisch) and SED (Sozialistische, Security Police) since 1st Nov. 1935.
- In SED, POLAND, Sept. 1939 - Jan. 1942, and on frequent visits there since.
- Later employed by REICHSGERICHTS-AMT (Reich Imperial Security), first in AM IV (Gehilfen Staatspolizei or GESTAPO - Secret State Police), Section IV D 2, or section for General-Government POLAND.
- Later in service of AM VI (Auslandsnachrichtendienst - Intelligence in Foreign Countries, which seems to include espionage).
- 9 months' course in SED School, BERLIN, for post as RECHENMAN.
- Last mission, on orders of AM VI: Establishment of Intelligence service, chiefly by V/T, between General ARNDT and Polish H.Q. in M.M. on the one hand, and the now German controlled Secret Polish Society M.M.P. in WARSAW.

As: FRANKLIN, V/T

(1) Previous History

MEZ had been interrogated in detail for a few weeks and much valuable material had been obtained from him. His previous story, as given in first three A.L.M. reports, about secret Polish and Czech organizations, was largely based on facts, but, as he had passed on a previous, his present story was more or less a fabrication.

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German S.D. officials and Poles in the pay of Germans.

(2) HERZ, A German not a Dutchman.

After a few minutes' conversation in various languages his accent betrayed his true nationality. His attitude was typically German. When he was told that he was no Dutchman, but a German from the Rhineland, he bitterly rejected the imputation of Rhenish origin but admitted that he was a German, from HAMBURG. Oddly enough his accent is more Rhenish than anything else, probably due to a compromise between Hamburg and Holland pronunciation. Occasionally he indulges in BERN speech.

(3) HERZ a I.O.-Man.

As soon as he realized that his true nationality had been discovered, he admitted that he was an old I.O. (I.O. man) and volunteered to tell the whole truth. I.O. feels that he has tried to reveal all the secrets he is possessed of, but, after years of practice in telling lies, he finds it inhuman to confine himself to true statements, especially as far as his own person is concerned. He has twice stated frankly that the Interrogator could not expect him to make statements which would incriminate him and possibly hang him.

(4) How Facts.

He seems to have given freely names, dates and activities of many hitherto unsuspected Poles and Germans, a number of them still in Poland and Germany, others abroad as agents of the Reichsaussenministerium (Imperial Security Service). He has given a new version of the organization of this vast HERZ machine. He has also produced the German-Polish plans for a new Poland (largely at the expense of Hungary) and the attitude of Poles in Poland and Silesia. He learned of these through his Polish friends who were among the leaders of various Polish organizations, were collaborating with the Germans, and when some of them had become inconvenient to the Germans, their relations with the Germans were revealed to other Poles and six of these pro-German leaders were liquidated by their own countrymen in the streets of Warsaw about mid-September of this year. The three Polish ring-leaders in this betrayal of their own people are now at the head of Silesia.

(5) Accuracy of Statements.

The facts given by HERZ have been checked to the best of I.O.'s ability, largely by cross-examination. The Interrogator feels that they are likely to prove correct except for some details about HERZ himself which may be of minor importance at present.

(6) Issue of Report in Sections.

As this report is urgently requested, it will be issued in several sections, numbered consecutively 4th, 5th, 6th, etc. I.O.'s Reports. The 4th and subsequent reports should, however, be read as a connected whole.

(7) Table of Contents for Series of Reports.

The contents of this series of reports will be as follows:

- A. Preliminary Note.
- B. Previous History.
- C. Journeys to Greece and Middle East.
- D. Purpose of Mission.
- E. HERZ's first contacts with Polish Secret Organizations.
- F. Polish Secret Organizations in Poland.

- G. Agreements between Polish Secret Organizations and German Government for New Poland.
- H. Present Arrangements between Poles and Germans.
- I. German-Polish agents abroad.
- J. MERZ's contacts in Greece with leaders of Greek Organizations.
- K. MERZ's contacts in Greece with German Secret Service.
- L. (a) Organizations of Reichsicherheitshauptamt (R.S. - Imperial Security.)
- (b) Organizations of SIPO in Poland.
- (c) Ranks of SIPO and equivalent ranks in S.S. or army.

M. Personalities, Physical Description, History, Activities.

- (a) Poles definitely working for Germans.
- (b) Poles friendly with Germans and co-operating with them.
- (c) Poles whose aims and activities are uncertain, according to Merz's evidence.
- (d) Poles entirely patriotic and believing in co-operation with Allies.
- (e) German officials in Imperial Security.
- (f) German officials in Secret Service.
- (g) German-Polish agents abroad.
- (h) Other Personalities connected with Poland.

N. Conclusions.

O. Recommendations.

APPENDIX: S.S. Ranks and Equivalent Army Ranks.

B. PREVIOUS HISTORY.

7th April '10	Born at HARBURG near HAMBURG. (Father a factory worker.)
Easter 1916 - Easter '23	Volksschule (People's School", or Elementary School), Harburg.
1923 - Easter '24	Weltliche Schule ("Worldly" or Non-Religious School, in which no religious instruction is given.)
1924 - Jan. '29.	Apprentice turner, 1924 - 28, during last year turner in MEIER's workshops, Harburg.
Jan. '29	For a fortnight temporary peasant on ship, Harburg-Antwerp-Hamburg.
Feb. - March '29	Unemployed.
April '29	Turner in WESER A.G., shipbuilders.
- May (?) '29	Worked on S.S. BREMEN.

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Mid May - Mid June '29	Unemployed.	
Mid June (?) '29	To Rotterdam, Holland, as mother had been unemployed and no funds were available.	
June (?) '29 - Oct. '33	Worked, with brief spells of unemployment, as turner, for <u>LIFE on HADEM, WILHELM</u> . While there he met Gertrud <u>WILHELM</u> , during his employment as servant with English family of <u>COLLINS</u> in Rotterdam. He and Davenbeck soon became engaged. Collins was a person and head of the British Seamen's Mission in Rotterdam.	✓ ✓ ✓
September '33	Collins finally returned to Southampton, Herz's fiancée lost her employment in Holland and returned to Hamburg, where she found a similar post.	
October '33	Herz followed her to Hamburg, near Hamburg. Brief period of unemployment.	
December '33	Re-employed by <u>Phoenix A.C.</u> as turner.	
Beginning '34	The <u>Luftsportverein</u> (Airsports Association) of which he was a member, posted him to the Hamburg branch where he was put i/o training in glider construction. Later the local Verein was incorporated in <u>MTL-SPORT</u> and Herz then became a member.	
(Mar. (?) '34 - Mar. '35	Turner with <u>Ritcher & Co.</u>	✓
Mar. '35 - Sept. '35	Turner with <u>Vomag</u> Automobile Works, Plauen, Voigtland.	✓
Sept. '35 - 1 Nov. '35	Back at Hamburg. Temporary employment on state railways as turner. While there applied for post in police.	
1 Nov. '35	Employed in <u>Kriminalpolizei</u> in Hamburg as non-permanent clerk, helping to establish a card-index and looking up records of men seeking employment in the growing amament industries.	
Feb. '37	Promoted <u>Kriminalpolizei-Vorbereitungsdienst</u> (Candidate for Assistant in Criminal Police in the Preparatory Service!) a temporary post.	
March '37	Hamburg incorporated in City of Hamburg.	
June or July '37.	Promoted to temporary post of <u>Kriminalassistenten-Vorbereitungsdienst</u> (Candidate for Assistant in Criminal Police), in <u>Aussenstelle</u> (Sub-station) Hamburg, of Hamburg <u>SPO</u> (Security Police) Total Monthly Pay: 60 Marks.	
June or July '38	Promoted <u>Kriminalassistent</u> (Assistant in Criminal Police), lowest permanent rank in police.	
21 August '39	Detached to <u>Einstrasskommando II/5</u> (Front Command II/5), <u>OPFER, SILESIA</u> . Command II/5 was attached to <u>Armee Süd</u> (Southern Army). Approximately 20 men were chosen from Hamburg <u>SPO</u> . At Oppeln he and others, chosen from <u>Kriminalpolizei</u> all over Germany, received a fortnight's general military training and had a few lectures in preparation for service in the Security Police (<u>Sicherheitspolizeidienst</u>) in Poland.	

10 Sept. '39

Although Command II/5 was attached to the Wehrmacht, it was not incorporated in it and the policemen did not receive Army Identity Discs.

Mers and 8 other policemen of Command II/5 were detailed to Quartierkommando (Billeting Command) of VIII Army Corps.

They proceeded to WILLY, NIDA, NODOMENO, RADOM.

Oct. - Nov. '39

In Radom. Mers being used as personal body guard for Chief of SIKO Command, at first Regierungsrat MIA, later Regierungsrat RICHARD. ✓

Nov. '39 - Beg. Jan. '42

In KLINGE. Posted to SIKO (Sicherheitspolizei - Security Police), the provincial M... of which was at Radom. Mers's wife and children did not follow him there, although some of the SIKO officials brought their families to Poland.

Mers at first employed in arranging billets, etc.

Feb. '40

First contact with Polish underground organization.

Saw Polish Lt. POWLOSKI who had come to Kielce from Warsaw, on orders of Major POWLOSKI, head of a large organization. Mers claims to have made to Lt. POWLOSKI a proposal for a truce between Germans and Polish organizations. Lt. P. agreed to submit proposal to Col. POWLOSKI, chief of secret/league M... for Southern Poland. Mers and Lt. P. went to Cracow, but no contact was made. Both returned to Kielce and a few days later Mers was ordered to escort Lt. P. to Radom but allowed him to escape. (See first contacts with Secret Polish Organizations below). ✓

Summer 1940

First meeting with MEER of Radom SIKO. This official later directed many of his activities in Secret Polish organizations. ✓

August '40

Mers promoted Kriminaloberassistent (Chief Assistant in Criminal Police). ✓

March '40 - June '41

Mers was punished for the Polish Lt.'s escape by transfer to office work. His chief task was summarizing and classifying interrogation reports for the Kielce district, and establishing two card registers, one for political parties and secret organizations, the other for personalities. All reports were filed under the first heading, not under personalities.

Mers also helped in interrogations during such periods. The interrogators at Kielce SIKO in 40/41 were: Oberassistent MEER, Interviewers GOER ((pronounced Gork) and TRIALA, also frequently Kriminalassistent TRIALA, Sekretär HAUSCH and, occasionally, Kommissar THOMAS, who was posted to Kielce as O.-C. SIKO on 1st April 1941. ✓

Mid July '41.

Col. ALBRECHT, Chief of Staff of 2nd Pz, secret military league, had been arrested in Warsaw and, as capital armed shaft, had been transferred to Kielce. Thomas interrogated the Colonel and failed to elicit any information of interest to Germans. He therefore ordered Mers to continue. ✓

as from Kildes, in the hope that he, too, would tell. When he proved successful he was entrusted with the custody of the Colonel Albert and acted as intermediary between him and the Commander of SIV, Baden. Col. Albert proposed a truce between Zwick and the Germans.

HEI saw Puck of SIV, Baden, who instructed him to report direct to him all matters relating to Polish organizations.

Col. Albert was released in order to transmit proposals to General HOEDEL, Chief of Wewels in Warsaw.

Wern, with Thomas, O.C., Haidach (Secretary) and Interpreter Oest, all of SIV, Kildes, went to Warsaw to meet Col. Albert on 15th Sept. '44. Albert was to report on results of his talk with Hoevel. The Colonel did not come to the rendezvous. Thomas therefore reported Wern to O.C. SIV, Baden, blaming failure of plan on Wern, who therefore went to Orosow and volunteered for forward front. Petilian declined on grounds that Haidach had forbidden all voluntary enlistments of SIV men in Army. O.C. SIV Baden, Redemptorist ALTHARD, administered severe reprimand to Wern for unauthorized action.

Wern saw Stefan MACHCIEK (See personal letter below) in Warsaw and the latter heard from Col. Albert's wife that the Colonel had committed suicide by poisoning. Wern visited his grave in Warsaw.

(Col. Albert was Albert's mother, to use an expression of the British Colony in the Ottoman Empire?)

Wern had to go to Baden SIV, on several occasions, in the Albert case. There he met Kommandant Franz (?) Zwick who was O.C. section for secret Polish organizations. Zwick it was who had agreed to set the Colonel free.

A sealer from Warsaw, who introduced himself as GABE, arrived at Kildes and asked Wern to go to Warsaw to meet members of a Polish organization. Wern did not inform his O.C. but asked for week-end leave for Warsaw. There he was introduced to WINO, Chief of the Intelligence section of a secret Polish organization. In connection, during several meetings, of common German-Polish action against Russian Commandants in Poland, GAB only ready to collaborate against Commandants.

Wern reported this to Kommandant Puck of Baden who told him not to contact any Poles in future without his authority and to report to him direct rather than to his immediate superior at Kildes.

RECOMMENDATION of SIV in Warsaw ready executed, under WERN. Wern, on orders of Baden, thus reported meetings with Winold to Spiller, thus establishing frequent and fruitful co-operation with Spiller.

18 Sept. '44

19 Sept. '44

20 Sept. '44

October '44

1st Nov. '44

24 Jan. '45

July Jan. '42

Dismissed from RUO branch at Kladno by Krichalukowsky Thoma on charge of exceeding his authority and of friendly associating with Poles. Pending investigation, in order to prevent Wiers's influencing local witnesses, Komendant Lipinski of RUO, Kladno, transferred him to Podolski (Lieutenant, Berlin). He first reported to Komendant (corresponding to Ado Bremer) of AMT IV, in the prison administration. After investigation of his previous activities they posted him to AMT IV D2, the coordinator General Government POLSK, O.G. Dept. (conspirent) DEUTSCH, in Berlin-Lichtenberg GSB.

As he had built up a card index and file for Polish parties, secret organizations and persons - letters for the Kladno district, and as the card index of AMT IV D 2 had barely been started, Wiers was ordered to build up a card index for the entire General Government on the same lines as in Kladno.

For a short period he was employed in the "Kardensbuchung" (Memory Section) of AMT IV. This section dealt chiefly with conscripts who have been condemned to death for High Treason and who have petitioned for mercy.

during this period several week-ends were spent in Warsaw, whether he was sent on official duty, in reality to fetch food and drink for Dr. Reinhold and others. Stefan Kowalski, the Polish judge, ex-commander, German agent and wealthy business man, and Bogdan Kowalski, a shelter Pole, both great friends of Wiers, provided him with materials.

Sent to RUO Mielochlager (selection camp), Prague, to be tested for his suitability for Kommandeur course. He was there with about 40 other candidates for 9/10 days.

May March '42.
April '42.

Back in AMT IV D2, Berlin-Lichtenberg Ost. First meeting in Warsaw with Dr. CHOD, one of chiefs of Polish Secret Society WIELKA, and WIER (Sword a Plough). Wiers was introduced by Stefan Kowalski who was in German pay, acting as informer and agent provocateur in Polish organizations. Gind asked for collaboration between German and Wiers. Wiers consulted his chief in Berlin, Dr. Demling of AMT IV D/2 of Wiers, reported security (Pseudonym: Wiers) and arranged meeting between him and Dr. Gind in Berlin. As Dr. Gind trusted Wiers implicitly he was chosen as intermediary for the lengthy negotiations.

May '42.

On one of subsequent week-end visits to Warsaw, Wiers met ADRIAN (pseudonym AMV) chief of Wiers. (Full details of agreement reached between German and Wiers's given below, in chapter on agreement between Secret Polish Organizations and German Government for War Poland).

Dr. Demling of AMT IV D2, 11th Poles of Berlin, instructed Wiers to report to him directly, rather than to Stefan.

May '42 - 6 Mar. '43

Posted to course for intended KOMMISSAR at the Führerschule der Sicherheitspolizei (SIPO) Berlin-Charlottenburg, Schloss Str. 1.

June '42.

First interrogation by Inspektor der Sicherheitspolizei für Berlin (Inspector of Berlin SIPO), Jagowstrasse, in action brought against him by Kommissar Thomas of Kielce SIPO for exceeding authority and friendly relations with Poles.

Winter 42/43.

Further week-end trips to Warsaw, during "Kommissar" course. In Berlin conferences with Dr. Däumling, O.C. AMT IV D 2 who explained that S.S. Gruppenführer (General) MULLER, chief of AMT IV, was dissatisfied with truce between Germans and M.I.P. Mery discussed this in Warsaw with Dr. Grad who decided to go to CAIRO to see General ANDERS, G.O.C. Polish Forces in M.E. He wished to explain difficulties of Poles to ANDERS, tell him that all good Poles now considered Russia enemy No.1, no longer Germany, that they would oppose a Russian invasion of Poland by force of arms, if necessary. Grad was to ascertain the viewpoint of Poles in M.E. The Germans hoped he would bring back confirmation from ANDERS that German intelligence was correct about rift between Poles in M.E. and Polish Government in London on Russian question. Grad was also expected to obtain promise from General ANDERS that Poles in M.E. would lay down their arms and refuse to support Allies any longer. Furthermore, ANDERS was to be asked to send Polish officers by air to Poland, to officer the military branch of M.I.P. and thus organize resistance to Russians. There had been disagreement between Z.W.Z., the secret military leagues and M.I.P.

Himmler vetoed Grad's mission.

6 March '43.

Last day of "Kommissar" course at Charlottenburg. Promotions were announced. Although Mery passed out one of the best in course he was not promoted because of pending trial on charge of friendliness with Poles. Despite this pending trial Mery had been allowed to complete the course.

On same day Mery's second interrogation on the charge of friendliness with Poles, in AMT II (Legal Branch) of Reichssicherheitshauptamt, in Prinz Albrechtstrasse. Witnesses against him: RAMKIN of Kielce, Polish girl friend of Mery; Bogdan KOPALSKI, wealthy pro-German Pole of Kielce, friend of Mery; and SIPIEL, German State Prosecutor at the Special Court (Sonstgericht), Kielce (now Judge of Assize Court or Landgericht in Gnesen).

Mery was informed by Kopalcki that he and Ramkinska had been forced by Kommissar Thomas of Kielce SIPO to testify against Mery under threat of "IX" (Konzentrationslager).

Soon after, Mery was informed that S.S. and

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and STRO went to Paris, although he had not been found definitely guilty on any charge, had decided to punish him and proceed with investigations on some new charges.

Before leaving STRO, KAT had talked of his intention to remove several members of his Komsomol group, among them PODOLSKY, MYKULIN with whom he had shared a room, and KOMAROV. Both were posted to Air VI immediately after the source. (Note by I-6. Air VI is called the Bureau for Foreign Affairs and seems to be in charge of all activities and intelligence of Imperial Security in foreign countries. It also appears to send STRO or Code agents abroad on missions for the Reichswehr (the Luftwaffe).)

KAT, during several of his visits to WILHELM, had meetings with DYR GRAD and ANDREWS of H.L.P. As a result the two leaders of H.L.P. decided to submit a memorandum direct to HITLER. Contents: Brief description of conditions in Poland and conclusion drawn from it that ADOLF had become serious to both GRAD and PODOLSKY. Offer to support GRAD against ADOLF in return for the creation of a GRAD unit, with frontiers pushed out into Prussian territory.

KAT was asked to take this document to BRUNDT, by-passing the Reichswehr (H.L.P.) who would have suppressed the plan if they had known of it.

During PODOLSKY's stay, according to KAT, in the seat of the Reich, and DYR GRAD accompanied him to Berlin. He had great difficulty in getting the documents so far as the CHIEF of the REICH for a discussion of the memorandum. PODOLSKY told KAT that he had not informed GRAD, C.O. of Air IV, and that he, PODOLSKY, had neither advised for nor against memoranda.

PODOLSKY (H.L.P.), Chief of HITLER's Chancellery seemed to favour acceptance of the Polish proposal.

Sent to STRO, Hamburg. There PODOLSKY (H.L.P.) informed him that the investigation by Air IV into his activities in Poland was proceeding, that normally he would be suspended from service, would have to surrender his police identity card and also his revolver, but that it would mean his revoking title. PODOLSKY could not afford that in war time, and he was therefore to be sent to an Air Force Lager ("Labour Education Camp" for Communists who have not acted in the best interests of the state, e.g. for refusing to help in an air raid, or for gambling openly about air-raid or lack of victories). At this camp at Hamburg he was told that he was not being punished but merely usefully employed. He should read most of the time he was there.

1 April 43.

Mid April (?) '43.

Dr. GRAD and Stefan MAJCHERAK came to Hamburg as they wanted him to go to Warsaw with them, and either there or, on the way, in BUDAPEST, report on results of proposal to HITLER.

MERZ managed to get "sick-leave" from Neuhafer Camp. In Berlin he called on Dr. Bäumling of AET IV B 2. MERZ was told that proposal had been submitted to Hitler who had sent it "through his own channels" down to specialist departments and that this meant that the proposals had been rejected.

MERZ therefore returned to Hamburg.

End Apr/Beg. May '43.

MERZ called by REHRHARDT to AET VI in Berlin. Proposal made to Merz that he establish a "political" information service with Poles in M.E. According to Merz the object was merely to ascertain the exact state of discontent among the Polish Forces in M.E. with arrangements made between Russia and the Polish Government in London.

MERZ went to Warsaw to discuss the plan with Dr. GRAD who no longer wished to go to CAIRO himself but agreed to establish contact with General ANDRZEJ and other Poles in M.E. through a courier.

GRAD decided that this could best be done from Greece where he had previously been and still had many connections in secret Greek organizations. The Greeks would be able to send Grad's courier to CAIRO.

MERZ and GRAD therefore decided to go to ATHENS to survey the situation and make preliminary arrangements for GRAD's courier.

SPECIAL POINTS:

See later.

CONCLUSIONS:

See later.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The account of this interrogation will continue in Volume Report No. 5.

C - MERZ's First and Second Journeys to ATHENS and later to Turkey and Syria.

Edmund Kelly,
Major.

Interrogating Officer.

15th December, 1943.
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